Which of the two did the will of his father?

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
Pastor Steve Basselman

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

“God Is Here”

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of
praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;
what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's
world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;
wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST *SEPTEMBER 27, 2026*

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE **FANFARE AND CHORALE ON "ABBOT'S LEIGH"**
ROBERT A. HOBBY

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"God Is Here"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, the secrets of our hearts are not hidden from you. We stand in your presence knowing that we have felt hatred toward others. We stand in the presence of your mercy knowing that we have made bad choices in our lives. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts as we confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

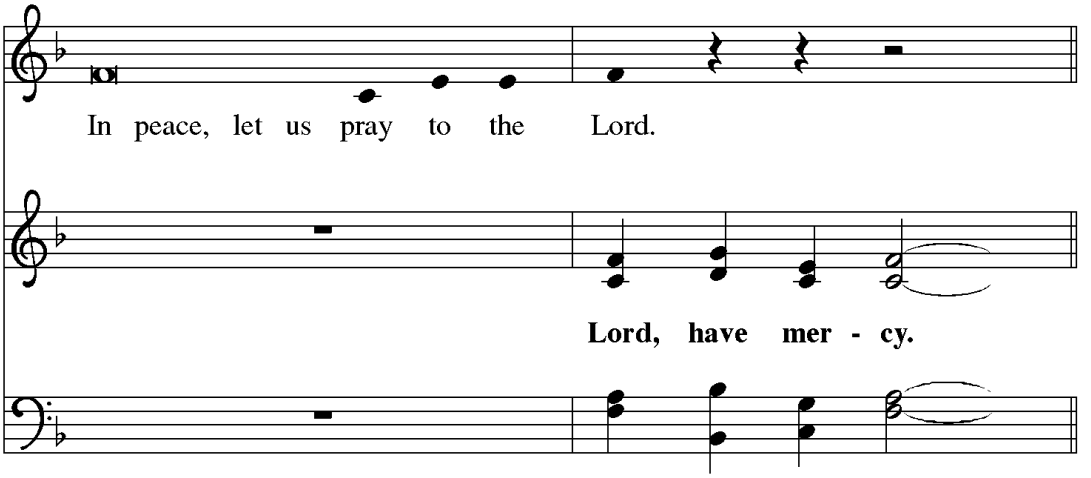
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

God is gracious and merciful, forgiving sins without number, welcoming all to the feast, and giving us a place among the saints. Through Jesus Christ, who went to the cross for our sake, we are forgiven and made whole. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you. *(Ephesians 4:32)*

Amen

***KYRIE** *(Please sing responses in harmony)*

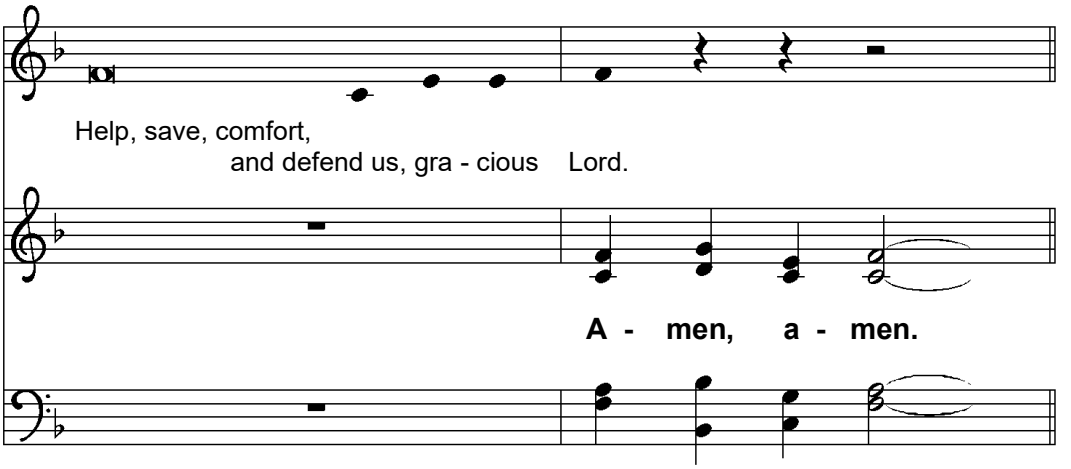


Additional petitions:

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**



*Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

And also with you.

God of love, giver of life, you know the frailties and failings in our love and life. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, so that we may honor the glory of the name that is above every name, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The Church Listens

First Reading — Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

Then another message came to me from the LORD: **2** "Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of Israel: 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children's mouths pucker at the taste'? **3** As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, you will not quote this proverb anymore in Israel. **4** For all people are mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is my rule: The person who sins is the one who will die.

25 "Yet you say, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right!' Listen to me, O people of Israel. Am I the one not doing what's right, or is it you? **26** When righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds. **27** And if wicked people turn from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives. **28** They will live because they thought it over and decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die. **29** And yet the people of Israel keep saying, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right!' O people of Israel, it is you who are not doing what's right, not I.

30 "Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD. Repent, and turn from your sins. Don't let them destroy you! **31** Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? **32** I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live!

New Living Translation

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:4-9 *– please read responsively*

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way. You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

SECOND READING — Philippians 2:1–13

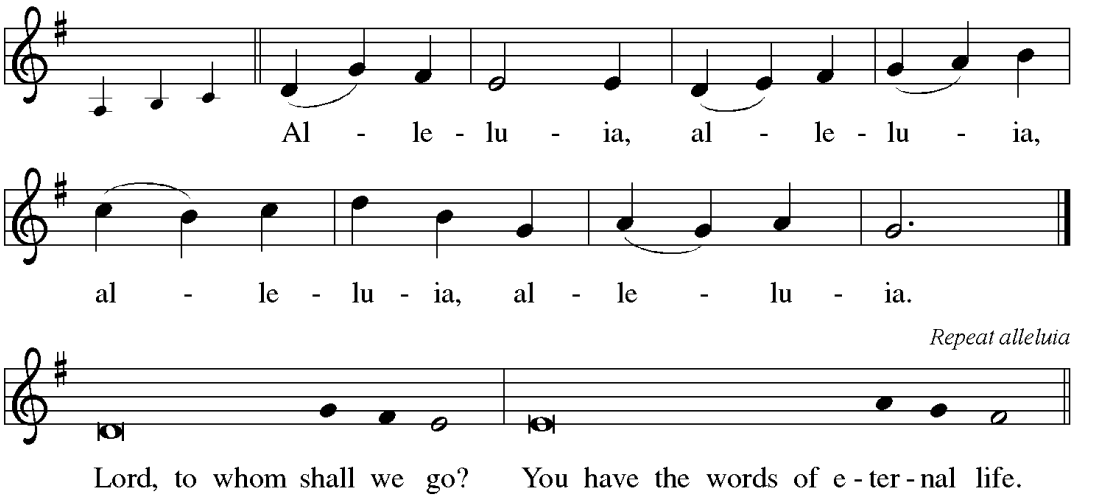
If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, [2]make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3]Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. [4]Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. [5]Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

[6]who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
[7]but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, [8]he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.
[9]Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name,
[10]so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11]and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

[12]Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; [13]for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Holy Gospel — Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

23When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came
to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and
who gave you this authority?" 24Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if
you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did
the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with
one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe
him?' 26But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as
a prophet." 27So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither
will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
28What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and
work in the vineyard today.' 29He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and
went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but
he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus
said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the
kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and
you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even
after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE **SUSAN SHORT**

MESSAGE ***"Turn Back and Live"***

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **"O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU"**

(Please remain seated for the introduction; Please sing Verse 4 in Unison)

***PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

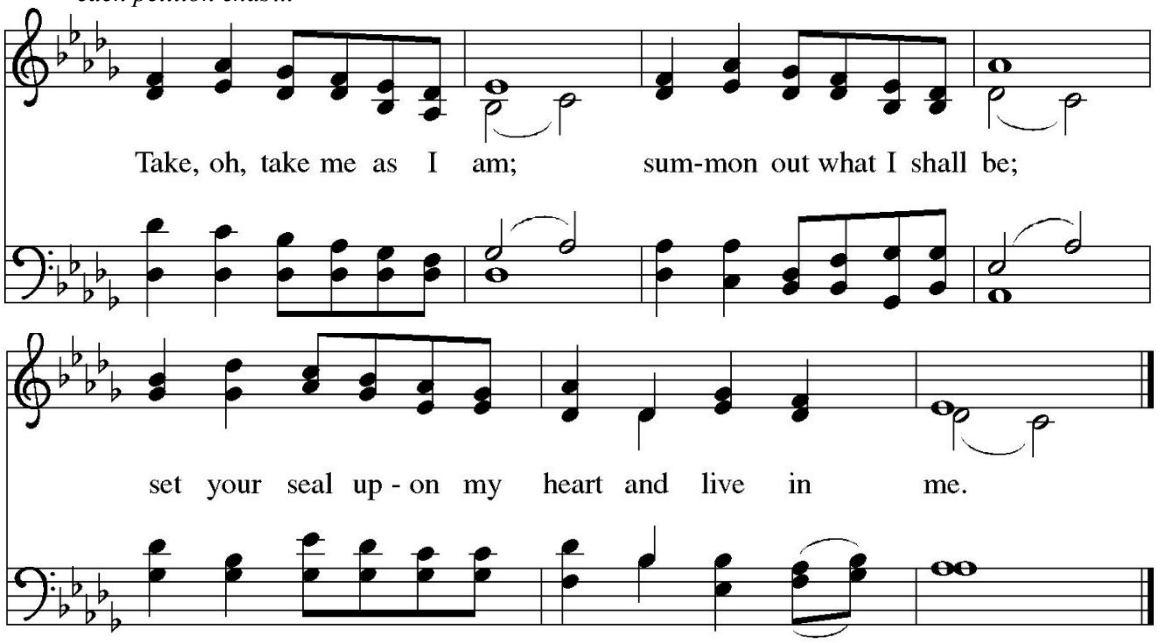
(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING OF GIFTS **"YOU, THE LORD, ARE MY SHEPHERD" (PSALM 23)**

Robert Lau

*Prayers of the Church

each petition ends…



*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Benediction

The Lord sends us forth with hands to serve, hearts to love, and feet ready to go.

Lord, send us to do your will today.

Go into the world God loves. Carry compassion to its pain, offer what you have, and let Christ's light shine through you, showing the grace you have received.

Lord, send us to do your will today.

May the grace of Christ guide your hands, the love of God fill your hearts, and the Holy Spirit strengthen your steps.

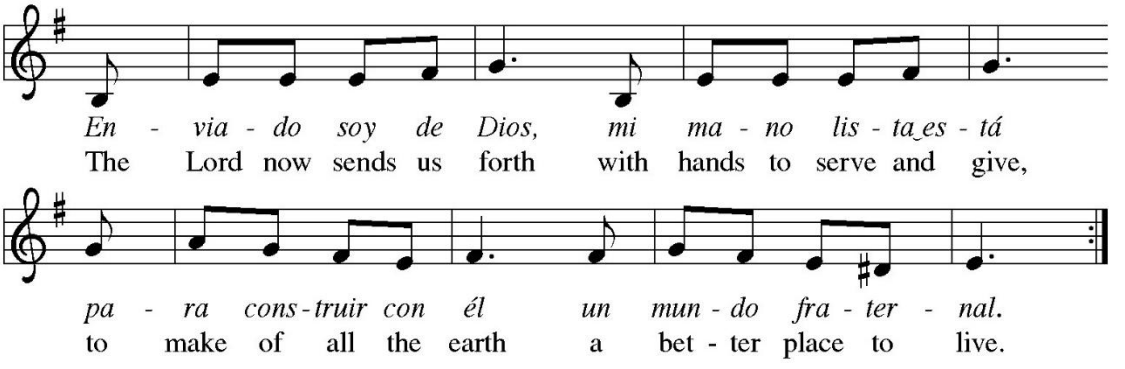
Lord, send us to do your will today.

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"*

(1st time – Leader only; 2nd time – ALL)



(1st time – Leader only; 2nd time – ALL)

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Liturgical texts and music for Gospel Acclamation and Offertory from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ©2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers

We Welcome All *to St. Martin's Lutheran Church this Sunday as you join us to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you are visiting, we would like to invite you back to worship with us at your earliest convenience. If you are looking for a church home, come join us here at "The Welcome Place" for worship and allow us to introduce ourselves and the Lord whom we serve. Join us for coffee, cookies and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service.*

Lector	-Angie Avers
Acolyte	-Alexa Schneider
Pianist	-Matthew Wachtman
Percussion	-Jacob Thatcher
Vocalist	-Julie Bame
Usher Team Leader	-Jim & Janet Wyse
Sound System	-Bill Phelps
Altar Guild	-Cristie Sevey & Peg Bjorlin
Offering Counters	-Mark Weaver & Diana Ziegler

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The St. Martin's Webstore has some new items! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email.

After School Tutoring-We are expanding our After School Tutoring program this year! Last year, we started with 6 students who needed a little extra support after school. That support can look different for every student. It might mean helping with homework, having a child read to you, working through a difficult assignment, or simply being a safe and encouraging adult in their life. With the full launch of the program this year, **we are looking for more volunteers.** We are opening the program to 10 elementary students and 2 middle school students, with the goal of providing each student with one-on-one time in the fellowship hall. We can only make that happen with the help of volunteers**.** One of the things that's great about this program

is that you can create a schedule that works for you. You could help every time we meet, once a month, or even just 4 times throughout the school year. Any amount of time you can give makes a difference. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, feel free to contact Jake. **AST begins October 7.**

Snacks for Kids Club & Middle School-Another current need is snacks for Kids Club and Middle School Youth on Sunday nights. We ask that snacks be non-perishable, such as graham crackers, fruit snacks, chips, water, and juice boxes for Kids Club.
We have been incredibly fortunate and thankful for how willing everyone has been to donate to our youth ministry. Because of your generosity, we have been able to keep snacks stocked throughout the entire school year and even use them for summer activities. There have been a few times when snacks have been left in the kitchen, in the refrigerator, or I'm informed of a donation in passing. We truly appreciate the donations, but unfortunately, those items don't always get used because Jake is rarely in that part of the building during the week. **To make sure everything gets seen, stored properly, and used, please drop snack donations off in my office or at the top of the staircase leading to the basement with a note that says "Youth & Kids."** That way Jake knows the snacks are there and can get them where they need to go. Thank you again for continuing to support our youth and kids' ministry. Your generosity makes a real difference!

The Mary Martha Circle is starting its new monthly Bible Study, **The Fruit of the Spirit, on Wednesday October 14 @ 1:00 p.m**. in the Fellowship Hall. This study is based on the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, that we recite as part of St. Martin's mission statement on many Sundays. We hope that by studying these fruits, we might learn how we, in our service to Christ can use these fruits to continue welcoming friends and neighbors to our fellowship. Although many might say we are the "old ladies" circle, we would say we are the "mature ladies" circle and would invite any and every mature lady available at 1:00 on Wednesday afternoons to join our group. We still study the Bible and serve Christ.

Normally our Circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month, but because of scheduling problems, we will start the 2nd week in October. So, we will meet on November 4th, and December 2nd, etc. We look forward to learning more about how we can use our "fruits" to serve our church and our community. Come, all you mature ladies, and join us!
Workbooks are available: see Kris Jemmott, or call/text her at 419-572-6221.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY- Sunday – September 27
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Concert Series, Hymn Festival, 3pm
Middle School Youth, 6:00pm

Tuesday – September 29
Men's Breakfast, 7am McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Boy Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday- September 30
Welcome Place Meal, 5pm
Worship, 6pm
Kids Club, 6pm
Chancel Choir, 6pm
Adult Circle, 6:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:15pm
Catechism, 7:15pm

Thursday-October 1
Women's Breakfast, 7am The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Next Sunday – October 4
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:15am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:00pm

HYMN FESTIVAL today at 3pm, led by Dr. David Cherwien and St. Martin's Chancel Choir. Hymn Festivals are events where the audience is an active participant. It's a community hymn singing event. The theme that David will present in readings and music is "For Everything There Is a Season." Bring your voice!

Watch for details on a series of Bible Studies and Topic Discussions with **Pastor Steve's Monday Night Zoom Study Group**. They will begin October 5. Each topic will last about 4 to 6 weeks. You can jump in or jump out at any time. Email Pastor Steve if you're interested. steveb@the-welcome-place.org

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

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Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs. All Day
Wed. PM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. AM & Fri. AM

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 9/20/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$4,064.88	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,848.00
Other Designated Income	$295.00		
Total Income	$4,359.88	**AS OF 8/31/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$252,428.34
		YTD Operating Expenses	($268,222.53)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	114/21/135	Net Income/(Deficit)	$(15,794.19)

St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:

- The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, Tanzania, and Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer, Toledo, may they continue to carry out God's ministry in their areas of mission.
- Those caught in the fighting between Israel and Palestine, the Ukraine, Iran; those recovering from natural disasters and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief and other relief agencies.

For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God:

Bob Alley, Louise Beldon's brother-in-law, health concerns
Tim Anderson, Bjorlin cousin, cancer
Shanté Armstrong, Jake's fiancée
Bonnie Badenhop, pancreatic cancer
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Laurie Fetzer, Greg Rupp's niece
Jim Hayes, brother of June Hayes, health concerns
Jeanise Hoeffel, Jane Sonnenberg's sister
Jayne Jewell, Diana Ziegler's cousin
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon Blair, Leukemia
Colleen Kelly
Sue Keil, Jake's mom
Bill Knause, Jess Short's father, health issues
Bonnie R. Lauber
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Conrad and Karen Perry, Andi Erbskorn's brother and sister-in-law
Bill Phelps
Peg Roth
Chuck Rupp
Nona Rupp, knee replacement
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Al & Lois Siewert
Joan Smith
Janette Trudel
Brad Welsh, brother-in-law of John & Chris Shafer, cancer
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse, health concerns
Joe Wyse

Homebound – Milla Kohv, Jerry & Alice Geiger

All members, family & friends who serve in our military: Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradly & Victoria Nilsson, Kennedy Hartung, Brendon Johns

Any prayer requests to add or remove can be sent to the Church Office by Thursday of each week: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org **We include a person's name and details only with their permission.**